

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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UP-TOWN OFFICE, BROAD-STREET PHARMACY, 610 EAST BROAD STREET.

MANCHESTER OFFICE, 1203 HULL STREET.

TUESDAY.....AUGUST 8, 1899.

CORRESPONDENTS should send us no speculations, predictions, or estimates as to the strength of candidates for the United States senatorship. What we desire is impartial reports of the proceedings of county and city committees and of other public meetings, and results of primaries or conventions.

YELLOW-FEVER OR NOT?

There are some people who are not satisfied that the disease which is prevailing to some extent at the National Soldiers' Home is yellow-fever. They argue that if it be that dreaded scourge surely it would have spread farther among the inmates and caused more deaths.

One of the rumors which has gotten about is that the men who are supposed to have died from this fever were really poisoned. The story is, that poison was spread for rats and that the poisoned rats, in search for water, got into the cisterns whence the home's drinking-water is drawn and there died. But this is utterly denied by the authorities at the Soldiers' Home. They declare there is not one word of truth in it.

We put forth in their denial. Aside from other potent considerations, it is unbelievable that medical men and other officials who are sworn to do their duty would engage in any scheme to bamboozle their superiors at Washington and the people generally.

There are a number of yellow-fever experts now at the home who have had opportunities there to watch the course of the fever, and to make post-mortems where they desired to do so. They must be presumed to know yellow-fever when they see it, and to have reported the facts as ascertained by them. So we think the theories of doubters cannot stand in the light of the official investigations.

That there has not been a greater spread of the disease among the veterans, we may fairly attribute to the vigorous measures adopted to stay its progress, as well as its presence was known. To all intents and purposes the home is a military post where every discipline is maintained, where every order given must be obeyed, and where there is a full corps of physicians and nurses to attend the sick. The situation there is very different from what it would be in a town of three or four thousand inhabitants.

As to the mortality among the veterans stricken by yellow-fever, we believe the percentage is greater than that which obtained when the epidemic occurred in the far South in 1877. That epidemic was mild; but in the case under consideration we have to remember that all the patients have been old, broken-down men; men whose habits in all cases were possibly not promotive of that sort of stamina which enables a person to withstand disease.

It is to be remarked of yellow-fever and small-pox both, as seen in this country latterly, that they are not of the virulent type formerly characteristic of them. In Virginia, in the course of the past twelve or fifteen months, there have been some thousands of cases of small-pox; but small-pox so mild as to raise suspicion in the minds of some that it could not be the real disease. But here again we have the testimony of experts, and that testimony is, that the disease was true small-pox. Yet in many instances the attacks were so mild that unvaccinated persons passed through them without serious sickness. And some of these persons had no medical attendance, it not being known at the time that the disease was small-pox.

Relying upon the judgment of the experts, and recognizing that they have no motive to conceal the truth, we must believe the disease at the Soldiers' Home is genuine yellow-fever. Now as to how it was introduced into the home there is abundant room for question. The theory that it was brought there by an old fellow who had been on a visit to Santiago is repudiated by that person himself. He ought to know, if he is a man of ordinary intelligence. By some it is supposed the disease may be traceable to the Reina Mercedes. Upon what grounds this supposition rests we do not know.

In good time, we hope, the origin of the disease will be traced. Meanwhile, we cannot but rejoice that it is no worse than it is, and that so much has been done, and is being done, on the Peninsula and elsewhere, to prevent its spread.

LET DAYLIGHT IN.

Each city that is endeavoring to keep itself clean and wholesome, would do well to look into the cellars of stores and dwellings. Many of these cellars will be found to be damp and filthy.

It is especially desirable that sanitary officers should inspect carefully cellars where perishable material has been stored. Cellars ought to be opened and aired frequently. Too many of them, except on rare occasions, are closed the year round, as if the occupants of the house feared that sunlight and free air would breed disease.

Look to your cellars! Let the daylight reach them; let the breezes blow through them.

Davis Dalton, known as "the man fish," an expert swimmer and noted life-saver, was drowned at Far Rockaway Beach, N. Y., on Sunday, in the sight of hundreds of bathers and sight-seers. One of his tricks was to swim without using either feet or hands, but by means of some fish-like motion of his body.

In doing this on Sunday he quietly sank. The crowd thought the sinking a part of his performance, but minute after minute elapsed and he did not rise. After four or five minutes had passed the life-saver proceeded to search for him, and soon recovered his body and took it ashore. The physicians who were summoned gave it as their opinion that death had been caused by apoplexy. Deceased called himself "the champion swimmer of the world," and is said to have saved 278 persons from drowning. He had swum across the English channel.

In commenting on the fact that the bodies of seven of John Brown's followers, who were killed at Harper's Ferry in 1859, and were afterward buried there, have just been removed to New York, N. Y., the New York Tribune says: "Reason has never justified the Kansas liberator, who undertook to measure arms with the United States, as well as to invade the sovereign State of Virginia."

Are we dreaming? Can it be that the Tribune, after over thirty years of attempt to apotheosize the old Kansas throat and his murderous gang, concedes that he could have been in error? Can it be that the Tribune, which writes this country a nation with a big N, admits that there is such a thing as a sovereign State?

Dr. Dennis D. Mulcahy, of Newark, N. J., recently paid his bill for city water, \$2, under protest, and will bring suit for the recovery of the money. He alleges that it is the duty of the corporation to furnish good and wholesome water, whereas that which it furnishes is bad and unwholesome.

It is almost possible now to go from New York to Boston entirely by trolley line. We wouldn't be surprised if in a few years it should be possible to make the same sort of trip without break from Richmond to Petersburg.

The Old Soldiers are Easy Victims of Fever.

Yellow Sulphur Springs, August 4, 1899. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Referring to the press reports from Hampton, Va., in regard to the supposed outbreak of yellow-fever in the National Soldiers' Home, in which it is reported that out of about thirty cases, only five have been recovered, one would say that indicates that the disease is in severe form. But a true knowledge of the conditions there will convince the public that no particular importance should be attached to this statement as indicating the severity of the disease. There are more than 3,000 old soldiers in the home, nearly all of them being past 60 years of age, infirm, decrepit, and easy victims to any unusual disease which may attack them. Scattered throughout the whole of the home, the habits of a good number of the veterans are not conducive to the maintenance of that vitality usual to persons of such advanced ages, and they therefore fall victims even to mild attacks of sickness.

On account of the large number of inmates, and their advanced ages, deaths at the home are frequent, and it is not unusual for two and three to occur in one day, and for reports of seven deaths at the home within a few days should create no particular alarm.

Yours truly, WILLIAM J. PAYNE, President Newport News and Old Point Railway and Electric Company.

Lagniappe.

(For the Dispatch.) The word "lagniappe" is known only in New Orleans. It has no significance in French nor in English. In the Creole City it implies a bonus for every purchase made in a retail grocery store. It is a common expression here by every French, black or white, when he goes to the corner grocery for 5 cents worth of sugar, bacon, soap, lard, or any other article needed by the cook in a family, or vegetable, fruit, or mistress of the household for table use.

I have never known this done anywhere else, except in New Orleans. "Lagniappe" is a considerable inducement for the errand child, and as he gets the article asked for, he or she gets the lagniappe and the grocer hands the child two or three raisins or a small piece of candy, or other little knickknacks.

It would be difficult for a retail grocer to keep his customers, if he year round unless he complied with this usage, for I have known a child to go to a far-off grocery store to make his purchases, because the corner grocer would not give "lagniappe."

The grocer who fails to give the usual lagniappe is "ragged" by the general run of errand children.

ERNEST WILTZ, New Orleans, August 1st.

PORT OF HABANA.

Vessel Movements During June Were Quite Large.

(Washington Star.) Vessel movements at the port of Habana for June were quite large, according to a report made public to-day by the War Department.

The total number of vessels in the foreign trade entered for the month was 125-111 were of steam, of a tonnage of 154,960 tons, and twenty-four were sailing vessels, of a tonnage of 5,239 tons. Of the number stated, fifty-four were American, with a cargo of a tonnage of 64,639 tons.

Eighteen English vessels entered with cargo, of a tonnage of 2,237 tons, and twenty-three were Spanish, with cargo, of a tonnage of 36,262 tons.

Of the total number of vessels mentioned ninety-nine brought cargo from

Novelist Condemns Action in Barring Hebrews from a Hotel.

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"That is a question which I, too, should like to have answered. I believe it is the Jewish people, who are the cause of this anti-Semitism, and on the real motives which underlie it."

STATUE OF ADMIRAL SEMMES.

Heroic Figure in Bronze to Be Erected in Mobile.

(New York Herald.)

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The statue is the work of Caspar Buberl, a New York sculptor. The casting will be done by Ernest Vatter in his foundry, at No. 312 Market street. The figure is 8 feet 6 inches high, and will stand upon a granite pedestal 11 feet 6 inches high. Mrs. Eliza Semmes-Colston, a daughter of the Admiral's, supplied the sculptor with many details to enable him to reproduce an accurate figure of her father. The pose is easy and characteristic. The granite base will have a large bas-relief and a bronze tablet. On the latter will be inscribed:

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Many Cantonians have expressed a fear that the President might be induced to accept one of the many invitations which the papers have had to publish, to visit to secure his residence elsewhere. It is the news that the deal is closed causes great satisfaction here.

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Belvin has recovered his decision on an application to compel Mr. Boldt to give security in costs, on the ground that he is a non-resident. The trial of the first action was held at Denver, with whom he had had some financial dispute. He has sued Boldt to recover \$50,000 damages for alleged libel.

Not Worth the Risk.

(Ohio State Journal.)

Rastus Johnson: Kin yo' see any puleben Sam? Samtha Chalkney: No, but I kin hear de dawg snarl. Rastus Johnson: Huh! Come 'long home, nigger. Dat dawg's a light sleepah, he is, an' ef he wakes up he won't crymize. I done got on a new suit o' clo's. Come 'long home.

Mine Enemy.

(W. G. Hole, in the Spectator.)

One in my pride I judged a man. With eyes averted I looked him through. I said, "I have failed him again and again. I measured all his faults anew."

And therefore marked in bitter mood To find therein such constant food That my just heart might not relent.

I probed his thoughts, his motives weighed; And yet as on his hopes I peered, Though some I might have crushed, I staved. My hand—they were so humbly reared.

And keeping watch with doubtful eyes On all his actions, I began To mark with measureless surprise How very human was the man!

Till, by a casual cross wind blown, Came word of trifling acts of his— Poor common things—in which was shown His touch with common charities.

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